



June 17, 2013

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **July 1**.

This issue contains information from **June 3 – June 17, 2013** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

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COCA News and Announcements

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV): Information and Guidance for Clinicians

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2013

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is a newly identified virus that can cause severe acute respiratory illness and death. MERS cases have been linked to the Middle East, and there is documented spread of the virus internationally. So far, no cases of MERS have been reported in the United States. However, clinicians need to remain vigilant. Epidemiologic investigations have demonstrated that this unique virus spreads from person to person during close contact, such as within families and healthcare facilities. Clinicians have a critical role in recognizing and managing suspect cases of MERS. During this COCA call, CDC subject matter experts discussed the clinical signs, epidemiology and infection control recommendations for MERS-CoV. There is no Continuing Education (CE) for this webinar.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_061313.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls.

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 23 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

NEW: CDC Press Release: CDC urges everyone: Get ready to stay cool before temperatures soar – June 6 (CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging people to prepare for extreme heat this summer by staying cool, hydrated, and informed.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0606-extreme-heat.html>

Wildfires: Protect Yourself and Others – (CDC)

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes. Reduce your risk by preparing now - before wildfire strikes.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/>

Hurricane Preparedness: Make a Plan – (CDC)

There are many steps you can take in advance to increase your safety during a storm.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/plan.asp>

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

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- [Nationwide Rubella Epidemic — Japan, 2013](#)
- [Update to Interim Guidance for Preexposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\) for the Prevention of HIV Infection: PrEP for Injecting Drug Users](#)
- [Mass Drug Administration for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis — Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 2011–2012](#)
- [Influenza Activity — United States, 2012–13 Season and Composition of the 2013–14 Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Update: Severe Respiratory Illness Associated with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) — Worldwide, 2012–2013](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Outbreak of Poliomyelitis — Somalia and Kenya, May 2013](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Update: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) – June 13 (CDC)

A novel coronavirus called “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being done to figure out the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>

NEW: CDC Health Update: Notice to Health Care Providers: Updated Guidelines for Evaluation of Severe Respiratory Illness Associated with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – June 7 (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00348.asp>

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

NEW: CDC Health Update: Human Infections with Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Viruses – June 7 (CDC)

This health advisory provides an update on the avian influenza A (H7N9) virus [H7N9] situation and includes new recommendations on who should be tested for H7N9 in the United States.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00347.asp>

Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – June 7 (CDC)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported. The new H7N9 virus has not been detected in people or birds in the United States.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Seasonal Influenza

NEW: Influenza Activity — United States, 2012–13 Season and Composition of the 2013–14 Influenza Vaccine – June 14 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6223a5.htm?s_cid=mm6223a5_e

Weekly Flu View – June 7 (CDC)

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – June 17 (US Department of State)

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Food, Drug and Device Safety

NEW: CDC Health Advisory: Nationwide Shortage of Doxycycline: Resources for Providers and Recommendations for Patient Care – June 12 (CDC)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) originally reported a shortage of some forms of doxycycline (doxycycline hyclate) and unavailability of tetracycline on January 18, 2013, caused by increased demand and manufacturing issues.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00349.asp>

NEW: FDA Investigates Multistate Outbreak of Hepatitis A Illnesses Potentially Associated with a Frozen Fruit Blend – June 13 (FDA)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local officials are investigating a multi-state outbreak of Hepatitis A illnesses potentially associated with a frozen food blend.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm354698.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (HHS/FDA)

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



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